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moderates, who oppose the individualists on one side as strenuously as they do the socialists on the other.

For the student the greatest value of the book lies in the comprehensive survey of the legal measures for the protection of labor taken by the leading countries, more especially by those on the Continent, and, naturally, most of all by the German Empire. A distinctly welcome feature of the book is the bibliography on pages 319 to 384. While by no means complete, it is, as it stands, the best available general list, and is especially valuable for the German periodical literature, which it cites very fully. A minor fault is the very frequent misspelling of English book-titles; a much greater one, however, is the absence of an index, the lack of which, in spite of the detailed table of contents, is a marked hindrance in using the book for reference.

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*Race Traits and Tendencies of the American Negro.* By FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN. Publications of the American Economic Association, Vol. XI, Nos. 1, 2 and 3. New York, Macmillan & Co., 1896. — 329 pp.

In this monograph Mr. Hoffman endeavors to prove that the American negro is deteriorating. It has been a popular belief that under our fostering civilization the freed negro is increasing in numbers so rapidly as to menace our republican institutions; but after reading Mr. Hoffman's work, all such ideas must be abandoned. His logic is convincing, and his data, collected with difficulty and taken mainly from city records or the census reports, point to the one conclusion that the race of negroes is on the downward grade.

The author first shows that the proportion of the colored population to the total population of the United States has fallen from 18.10 in 1830 to 14.13 in 1860 and 11.93 in 1890. This decrease is apparent in Southern as well as in Northern states. He also points out that the negroes tend, on the one hand, to concentrate in the cities, where they occupy undesirable and unsanitary districts, and on the other, to migrate to Southern rural sections in which the colored population already preponderates. Thus, in sixteen large Southern cities, where the white population increased 94.11 per cent during the decade 1880-90, the colored population increased 262.6 per cent; whereas in ten Southern states where the white population increased 51.19 per cent, the negro population increased only 50.93 per cent. Furthermore, in the cities the negroes are mainly concentrated in a

few wards. For example, 63 per cent of all blacks living in Chicago in 1890 were crowded into three wards, which contained only 6.3 per cent of the white population. The *Hull House Maps and Papers* show, too, that the "section inhabited almost exclusively by colored persons is also the section which contains all the houses of ill-fame in this part of the city." Similar conditions are shown to exist in other large cities.

In this migration of the colored people to the cities, where they are crowded together in unsanitary districts, Mr. Hoffman sees the first great step toward race degeneration. Under such conditions the birth-rate cannot make good the death-rate, and the continued migration to the city must lead to the gradual extinction of the race. The birth-rate of the colored race is, indeed, in excess of that of the white population, but this fact in itself counts for little. The birth-rate must be considered in its relation to the death-rate; and the death-rate of the blacks greatly exceeds that of the whites. Moreover, the death-rate of the blacks is steadily increasing, while that of the whites is decreasing. The mortality of the negroes exceeds that of the whites by 62.1 per cent. In ten Southern cities the death-rate for whites during the quinquennium 1890-94 was 20.12 per thousand, while that of the negroes was 32.61. In the Northern States, the deaths among the negroes outnumber the births, and any apparent increase of black population is entirely due to migration. In four cities in which life tables were calculated on the basis of the census of 1880, the expectation of life at birth was from 12.5 to 17.1 years less for the colored than for the white population.

The chapter devoted to "Race Amalgamation" shows that very few of the pure African stock remain. The mulatto, inferior physically both to the pure black and to the pure white, has increased at the expense of the pure black; and the crossing of the two original races has been detrimental to the colored population. There seems to be little ground for thinking that a successful blending of the two races on a large scale is probable. On the contrary, the crowding together of the colored people in cities and the excess of women over men leads to prostitution for gain and to an increase of illegitimates, with the accompanying increase of infant mortality (26 per cent of all colored births in Washington) or of weakly mulattoes. Such amalgamation can only mean degeneration.

In this condensed review of Mr. Hoffman's admirable work I have given only a few of many facts upon which his striking conclusions are based. One line of argument, which is strengthened by a com-

parison of his own data with the statistics of the colored race in the West Indies, he summarizes as follows :

The decrease in the rate of increase in the colored population has been traced, first, to the excessive mortality, which in turn has been traced to an inferior vital capacity. The mixture of the African with the white race has been shown to have seriously affected the longevity of the former and left as a heritage to future generations the poison of scrofula, tuberculosis and, most of all, of syphilis.

So far his conclusions are fully warranted by the facts ; but Mr. Hoffman stands upon much more insecure ground when he maintains that this deterioration and decrease in vital capacity are indications of racial traits. That racial difference may account for many economic phenomena can hardly be questioned, but that it accounts for all those here presented is hardly proved by the facts produced. Thus, the author says :

It is also plain now that we have reached the underlying causes of the excessive mortality from consumption and the enormous waste of child life. It is not in the *conditions of life*, but in the *race traits and tendencies* that we find the causes of excessive mortality. [Page 95.]

This statement seems to have been made regardless of the facts which are so forcibly brought together in Chapter I. As he there shows, before the war the colored people were a distinctly rural or agricultural people ; but during the last thirty years they have tended to migrate to the cities, where they are crowded into a few wards, which as a rule are the most undesirable sections of the city. "After all that has been said on the modern tendency of civilized people to leave the country for the city, there are probably no other instances of such wholesale migration to the city as is here shown." Any rural population suddenly transferred to such unfavorable conditions of city life must suffer in the same way. Under such conditions no peculiar "race traits or tendencies" are necessary to explain a sudden increase in infant mortality or physical degeneration. Nor must it be forgotten that a race suddenly thrown upon their own resources under entirely new conditions, as were the negroes after their emancipation, must necessarily suffer from such change of circumstances, regardless of race tendencies. A similar answer could be made to Mr. Hoffman's argument that immorality, which is constantly increasing among the negroes, is a race trait. It is true that Mr. Hoffman says : "The loss thus sustained by the rural districts of the South is not very large numerically nor proportionately" [p. 31] ;

but as his conclusions are based on statistics of the colored population in the cities, and as he compares the negro of to-day with the rural negro of thirty years ago, the criticism is still applicable. The facts presented by Mr. Hoffman seem to confirm rather than to detract from the statement quoted by him from John Stuart Mill:

Of all the vulgar modes of escaping from the consideration of the effect of social and moral influences on the human mind, the most vulgar is that of attributing the diversities of conduct and character to inherent natural differences.

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*On the Structure of Greek Tribal Society: An Essay.* By HUGH E. SEEBOHM. London and New York, Macmillan & Co., 1895.—xi, 147 pp.

Mr. Frederick Seebohm's notable book on *The Tribal System in Wales*, recently reviewed in this QUARTERLY (vol. xi, p. 310), has been quickly followed by his son's essay, which "owes its existence," as Mr. Hugh Seebohm modestly confesses, to his father's "inspiration and encouragement." We find in it the same leading ideas, the same method of enquiry; it may, indeed, be not unfairly described as a search among scantier Greek evidence for phenomena like those which Mr. Seebohm *père* discovers in the fuller Welsh material. But the search was worth undertaking, and has been carried out with ability; and both authors are to be congratulated on "fellow-work" so very pleasant.

Mr. Hugh Seebohm begins by setting forth "the *meaning* of the bond of kinship" in ancient Greece, and shows that it involved the duty of providing the services owing to the dead, the duty of providing male succession, and a liability for bloodshed by any member of the kin. Under each of these heads he collects a great deal of interesting information. Then he turns to consider "the *extent* of the bond of kinship," and finds the answer to his question in the *ἀγχιστεία* of Athens in the fourth century B.C. This was a group of kinsmen including the great-grandchildren of a common ancestor,—stretching out, that is, to embrace second cousins,—"a compact group responsible to each other for succession and vengeance," which he regards as a survival from "tribal" conditions. Finally he deals with "the relation of the family to the land." Following Professor Ridgeway's well-known essay on *The Homeric Land System*, he concludes that